

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths in Iowa, averaging over 2,000 annually.

WHEREAS. falls among older adults are a significant problem and pose a major threat to health and independence resulting in high personal and economic direct costs; and

WHEREAS, among Iowa's older citizens, falls are the leading cause of hospitalization and death and the rate of

deaths is fifteen times greater for those over 65 than the rate of all ages combined; and

WHEREAS, the combined direct costs of fall-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits in Iowa are \$237 million annually; and

falls are a contributing factor for nursing home placements, which may end an older citizen's

WHEREAS, ability to live independently; and

WHEREAS, falls among older adults occur in all socioeconomic and cultural groups with nearly one-third of older adults experiencing a fall; and

WHEREAS, the fastest growing segment of the Iowa population is among persons over 65; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that health care providers screen for fall risk among older adults and provide resource material to older adults, their families and caregivers are steps that can help reduce the number of injuries due to falls; and

promoting the use of evidence-based classes to improve strength and balance has been shown to WHEREAS, reduce fall risk among older adults; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Department on Aging have fostered partnerships across the aging network to help with resources and training to prevent falls:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2014, as

FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY

Henry 26° TERRY E. BRANSTAD GOVERNOR OF IOWA

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERE-UNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 54L DAY OF SEPTEMBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN

ATTEST:

MATT SCHULTZ SECRETARY OF STATE